



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER AIRPORT SCREENER CONVICTED OF MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS

Falsified information on application for employment

DETROIT — A jury convicted a former airport screener here Thursday in the U.S. District Court on two counts of making false statements to obtain employment, following an investigation by the Federal Air Marshal Service, a division within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sadeq Nagi Ahmed, 25, is a naturalized U.S. citizen who resides in Dearborn, Mich. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in December 1997. At the time of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks, Ahmed reportedly made comments regarding his support for Osama bin Laden. The Air Force conducted a subsequent investigation which led to Ahmed being discharged from the military for questionable loyalty to the United States. He received an honorable discharge.

After the Air Force discharged Ahmed, he obtained employment at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport screening luggage for Huntleigh USA as a contractor. About one year later, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) assumed responsibility for screening baggage at the nation's airports. Ahmed was allowed to continue working as a baggage screener pending his completing an application for federal government employment and a favorable background investigation. According to the investigation by Federal Air Marshal Service special agents, Ahmed willfully and purposely failed to disclose that a previous security clearance had been revoked prior to his separation from the Air Force.

The Federal Security Director (FSD) at Detroit Metropolitan Airport was contacted in March 2003 regarding comments Ahmed made to a gate agent indicating that he was a Northwest Airlines pilot. During this conversation, he asked security-related questions. His impersonating a commercial pilot, combined with his line of questioning and falsifying information on his employment application led to TSA terminating Ahmed's employment.

Ahmed was indicted in September 2004 by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Michigan for providing false statements. He was convicted of this charge Thursday, and is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 22 by U.S. District Court Judge Bernard Friedman.

"This is an excellent example of how various agencies can come together to ensure the safety of the flying public," said John Bell, ICE Detroit special agent-in-charge with the Federal Air Marshal Service. "Our agents will continue to work tirelessly to secure vulnerabilities within our transportation infrastructure."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.